

Division Head: It Has Been a Good Year for Pediatrics



Richard Gorlick, M.D., division head and chair of Pediatrics, presented the State of the Division Address on Oct. 3 and highlighted successes, including the \$5 million Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) Pediatric Core Grant for biospecimen tissue collection, a CPRIT grant awarded for nearly \$1 million dollars to continue research examining the benefits of exercise in sarcoma patients' ability to absorb more chemotherapy, and the successful application with two other divisions to establish a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Sarcoma Specialized Project of Research Excellence (SPORE). "Overall, it's been a good year for Pediatrics," he said to a full audience at Onstead Auditorium.

Gorlick touted an increased number of stem cell transplantation patients and trials, and numerous new grants, publications, and presentations featuring faculty and advanced practice providers. Additionally, clinical staff established a protocol for the administration of intravenous antibiotics in febrile patients, the division's Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Oncology Program celebrated a couple of firsts—a weekend retreat at an Austin resort thanks to a \$50,000 donation from Kendra Scott and a banquet at The Park to recognize scholarship recipients. Other Fiscal Year 2019 successes include the introduction of a fitness program that pairs patients with college or professional athletes who demonstrate that exercise can be healthy and fun, and the positive feedback about our division among Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) inspectors who spent time on our campus in August.

Some mission critical areas being addressed include expanding our intensive care services to a full intensive care unit (ICU), establishing a hospitalist program, recruiting for a leukemia section chief, and working with leaders to explore partnerships with other University of Texas entities. The division head said faculty and clinical leads are "taking a deep dive" to examine how we can raise our score in the US News and World Report's Best Hospitals issue. Gorlick talked about a strategic planning retreat and asked for input in developing division strategy. [Pediatrics employees have received his entire State of the Division Address via email. It is also available on our SharePoint Drive under Announcements.](#)

September Filled with Many Activities to Recognize Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Several events were held to recognize September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. The Houston Dynamo and Mascot Diesel attended several events at the hospital and invited some of our patients and their families to the BBVA Stadium to participate in pregame festivities at the home team's Sept. 21 match against the Orlando City Soccer Club.



The night at the stadium was declared "Soccer Kicks Cancer."

Branko Cuglievan, M.D., assistant professor of Pediatrics—Patient Care, was among many faculty members to join patients for the game. Several patients loved wearing capes onto the field that were specially made for them. MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital also hosted a Celebrity Cooking Demo at The Park on Sept. 17, where we invited prominent Houston-area chefs to cook items from our e-cookbook that met healthy nutrition guidelines. Our patients participated by serving as sous chefs, assisting our headliners with chopping, stirring, blending, and serving.

The Faris Foundation hosted a "Let There Be GOLD Celebration of the Arts" event on Sept. 24. The patients painted leaves in fall colors, listened to music, took photos with Childhood Cancer Awareness picture frame and other props, participated in a talent show, and enjoyed lunch and cupcakes they decorated. The kids also experienced the inside of a Van Gogh painting through virtual reality goggles. [--- More Childhood Cancer Awareness on next page.](#)

Newly Donated Hospital Gowns with Houston Astros Logo Give our Inpatients Comfortable Options

The Starlight Children's Foundation, Major League Baseball, and the Houston Astros brought big smiles to the faces of our patients and their families by donating 200 specially-made blue and orange baseball gowns that tie on the sides—instead of down the back—and have plastic snaps on the shoulders to allow easy access for exams and medical procedures.

The big event—also part of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month—took place at the Pedi Dome on Sept. 9 and included a visit from Houston Astros outfielders Kyle Tucker and Myles Straw, along with Orbit the Mascot. Attendees also enjoyed baseball-related games, music, face-painting, and snacks.

Since 1982, Starlight's programs have positively impacted more than 16 million critically, chronically and terminally ill or injured children across the United States. The gown donations allow the foundation to give the kids bright and colorfully decorated garments to wear so they feel like they're wearing something special during a challenging time.



Prom Party Palooza 2019 Lived Up to its Theme: The Greatest Showman on Earth



The Fourth Annual Prom Party Palooza included a ringmaster, stilt walkers, jugglers, a bearded lady, contortionists, and body balancers at the grand affair held Saturday, April 27. It was both a glamorous and circus-like atmosphere, with the theme of the party based on the movie, *The Greatest Showman*. The idea was conceived and birthed by **Tomika Gamble, BS**, camps and special events program manager; Jill Vidal, owner of EB Incorporated and member of the National Association of Catering Events (NACE) Houston; and Thomas Nguyen, co-owner of Peli Peli Restaurants, co-founder of prom, and member of MD Anderson's Advance Team.



The event featured three parties in one with everything starting at The Park, where several area restaurants and vendors served delicious food, custom-made beverages and desserts, including a liquid nitrogen ice cream selection, and the ringmaster lead a great show that included a performance by Sarah Grace of The Voice.



Hair stylists, make-up artists, nail technicians, and a team of jewelry makers from Kendra Scott were on hand that night to help our participants look their best. The entire week was dedicated to preparing for prom night. Patients and some of their guests participated in our Suit and Dress Shop, which was filled with brand new beautiful dresses for the young ladies to select. The gowns were donated by Muzzy's, Dillards, and MD Anderson employees, with designer shoes donated by SJP Sarah Jessica Parker. Young men were able to select tuxedos from Men's Wearhouse and were invited to be fitted for custom-made monogrammed dress shirts by AND Suits Designer Abe Ndoe. Houston Dynamo players attended the fittings to help the young men select suits.



The Sunshine Kids Foundation hosted a party on G9 for the younger patients and siblings with a variety of activities, including music and dance, face painting, arcade and board games, and arts and crafts. Parents and caregivers made their own memories at The Park. Teen patients and guests 13 and older attended the main event on the 24th Floor Observation Deck in the Main Building. This party had its own DJ, mocktail and dessert bar, photo booth, and dance floor.



Resilience: Taking Care of the People Who Care for our Patients



Special by Joanne Greene, M.A., M.S.N., A.P.R.N., C.P.N.P.-B.C., advanced practice registered nurse

The intense acuity and frequent terminal prognoses of our pediatric patients in the MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital puts our staff at extreme risk for compassion fatigue, moral distress and burnout.

In Chapter 13 of the recently published book, *Palliative Care in Pediatric Oncology*, **Karen Moody, M.D., M.S.**, associate professor of Pediatrics, describes interventions to help mitigate these risks. She notes that interventions derived from modifications within the individual, professional practice, and institutional support of the staff are important.

Caring for one's self builds resiliency and allows some protections against negative side effects of stress. Resilience is an essential skill required to practice mindful caregiving while maintaining personal integrity and a passion for the work. Fortunately, resilience can be learned! As a pediatric leadership team, we recognize that healthcare providers who are resilient are better able to manage the demands of their positions and provide excellent care to our patients. The Pediatric Supportive Care Team has developed and implemented programs for the staff that build resiliency. In May, Janice Nuuhiwa, M.S.N., R.N.-B.C., A.P.N./C.N.S., C.P.H.O.N.®, presented *Staff Resilience Workshops*. She worked with employees through one-on-one discussions, hands-on activities and lectures.

The Pediatric Supportive Care Team works with multidisciplinary specialists to provide a variety of programs designed to help staff manage work stressors.

- We implemented a Code Lavender program, which provides the staff an opportunity to come together to share thoughts and feelings, discuss memories of deceased patients, support each other and indulge in some tasty snacks.
- We invite Employee Assistance Program (EAP), Spiritual Care and Education, Arts in Medicine, Social Work, Pediatric Psychologists, Clinical Ethics and Nursing Leadership to help facilitate discussions during Code Lavenders—which are offered to the day and night shifts. This Pediatric Code Lavender program has been recognized by the institution as being a vital part of caring for staff and is developing an institution wide program like ours.
- We also work closely with Jessica Moore, D.H.C.E., a clinical ethicist in the Department of Critical Care and Respiratory Care, to ensure our staff has a safe climate in which they can discuss ethical questions that are inherent to our work.
- I brought the Pediatric End of Life Care Nursing Consortium (ELNEC) curriculum to the Children's Cancer Hospital and presented a full-day *Pediatric Supportive Care Course*. I also presented *Pediatric Supportive Care Program Development* at the 2019 GAP Conference, which offered suggestions on how to provide supportive and palliative services and build a sustainable pediatric supportive care program.

In MD Anderson's drive towards Service Excellence, the Pediatric Supportive Care Team is all about INNOVATION!

Pediatrics Nurse Practitioners Recently Earned Doctorates

Congratulations to four nurses who earned doctorates of nursing practice this year.

Seen in the top photo are **Angela Yarbrough, D.N.P., M.S.N., R.N.** (left); **Shea Simon, D.N.P., M.S., R.N.**; and **Lisa Triche, D.N.P., M.S., R.N.**, who received their degrees in May from the Cizik School of Nursing at UT Health. **LeighAnna Hutchinson, D.N.P., M.S.N., R.N.**, (bottom photo) received her degree in August from Baylor University's Louise Herrington School of Nursing.

What is the difference between someone with a DNP and a PhD in Nursing? A DNP

graduate applies research findings through quality improvement science to improve processes and systems in the health care system. This person enhances hands-on nursing care and leads interprofessional project teams to improve quality and safety of the health care delivery system. A PhD in nursing prepares graduates for careers in research as nurse scientists at universities, healthcare organizations, or government-level roles.

Yarbrough, an advanced practice registered nurse, continues to see patients in the Survivorship Program and the Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Oncology Program. Triche, also an advanced practice registered nurse, oversees the Pediatric Ambulatory Treatment Center (PATC) where patients receive chemotherapy and other infusions, and triages patient visits. Simon is the associate director of clinical nursing on our G9 Inpatient Unit. Hutchinson works as an inpatient clinical charge nurse on G9.



Fellowship Graduation Brings New Beginnings for Four Physicians Who Became Pediatric Cancer Specialists

June 13 was a very big day for four excellent physicians who received certificates of completion marking the end of their Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program. During their three-year training, the all-female class learned to care for young patients with blood and solid tumor malignancies. The families of (l-r) **Nelda Itzep, M.D.**, **Grace Nehme, M.D.**, **Sheetal Phadnis, M.D.**, and **Brianna Murphy, D.O.**, applauded them at a graduation ceremony held at The Park on Floor 2 of the Main Building.

What's next for the graduates? Itzep will remain at the Children's Cancer Hospital for another year to focus solely on palliative and supportive care training. Phadnis will go to New York University for a year of training in pediatric brain tumors. Nehme will work as a pediatric hematology/oncology specialist in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Murphy will work at Memorial Sloan-Kettering in New York providing general oncologic care to pediatric patients.



AYA Scholarship Recipients Beamed with Pride at Ceremony Celebrating their Accomplishments



Well-dressed and full of expectations for a bright future, 21 recipients of our 2019-2020 AYA Scholarship Program attended a special ceremony at The Park on July 18 to commemorate receiving support to attend college, graduate school, or vocational school.

AYA Program co-directors **Michael Roth, M.D.**, associate professor of Pediatrics—Patient Care and **Andy Livingston, M.D.**, assistant professor of Sarcoma Medical Oncology, greeted recipients and their families. Thirty-nine awards totaling \$75,000 were conferred this summer. The awardees had great stories worth celebrating. Among them, 26-year-old Arely Acuna who came to MD Anderson a few years ago for help with painful neuropathy following treatment for Stage 4S neuroblastoma diagnosed on her first birthday.

During the early years of her life, her family moved multiple times in search of the next phase of her treatment, which included surgery, multiple courses of chemotherapy, bone marrow transplantation, and radiation. “Before I ever stepped foot in a classroom at four-years-old, I could tell you my full name, date of birth, medication allergies, and that I had neuroblastoma. I could tell you about the chemotherapy, radiation and bone marrow transplant I’d already received,” Acuna wrote in her scholarship application. She is now planning a future that will be filled with children as she pursues her Early Childhood Education degree, and she will use her scholarship funds to assist with the cost of completing her education. Acuna says her goal is to work with kids and give them the type of fun childhood experiences she missed out on. “I am here for a reason and maybe that reason is to inspire with my story and give courage to others like me. If I have learned one thing through my journey, it is that there is always hope no matter how hard it gets,” she wrote. “Cancer is a part of me, but it will not define me. I am more than a cancer patient. I am a survivor. I am a warrior and I will be successful in life.”

How Does This Sound? Support Services Adds Music Therapy for our Patients

Arts in Medicine struck a new tune by launching an official music therapy program earlier this year. This specialty targeting pediatric patients helps to reduce stress and anxiety, builds confidence in children, decreases pain perception and provides patients with positive social experiences.

Melissa Sandoval, B.S., M.T.-B.C., a board-certified music therapist with neurologic music therapy training and a specialty in Palliative Care, joined the Children's Cancer Hospital in March. She has experience with populations ranging from infancy to older adults, sessions ranging from parent-child bonding to end-of-life. As she has grown in the field, Sandoval has focused more on supporting pediatric hospital patients and their families during all aspects of their journey.

Over the last five months, Sandoval has built a program in which music therapy allows patients and their families to have a safe and comforting place to express, create and bond. She is excited to continue building the program, and will continue to educate and advocate on the benefits of Creative Arts in hospital settings.



Kleinerman Wins \$100,000 Grant to Investigate Osteosarcoma Immunotherapy Vaccine



Eugenie Kleinerman, M.D., professor of Pediatrics, won a \$100,000 grant from St. Baldrick's Foundation to support her research of a novel dendritic cell (DC) vaccine combined with the checkpoint inhibitor anti-PD1 for osteosarcoma therapy. The vaccine, developed by Stephanie Watowich, Ph.D., professor of Immunology, and her lab team, has shown activity against melanoma. She and Kleinerman began collaborating about a year and a half ago to modify vaccine production to target osteosarcoma cells.

DC vaccine therapies are a new area of focus in immunotherapy, showing activities in other cancers, but never tested against osteosarcoma. If Kleinerman's lab demonstrates the vaccine works in pre-clinical orthotopic models—mice that are implanted with tumor cells at the same site where disease or metastases would be found in the original human host—against a primary tumor and lung metastases, she will be able to make a case for clinical trials for patients with relapsed and metastatic osteosarcoma disease, as well as for patients who are chemoresistant to front-line therapies.

***Dr. Kleinerman** will be a speaker at "She Leads," a two-day event curated by the Olin Fellowship for the Women of Washington University in St. Louis, Oct. 24-25. Over 600 women are expected to participate in panels and interactive sessions and network. Organizers wrote, "Programming will be hosted by change makers & disruptors from a variety of backgrounds and industries." The Closing Keynote speech will be given by Dr. Jill Biden.

Additionally, she was inducted into the Shaker Schools Alumni Hall of Fame Class of 2019 in recognition of her scientific and clinical expertise in sarcomas. The Shaker Schools Foundation was established in 1981 as a non-profit organization to provide resources to enrich the educational experiences of students attending Shaker Heights City Schools, a public school system in Ohio. Learn more about the school foundation [here](#).

Chandra Now Leads GSBS Faculty



Joya Chandra, Ph.D., associate professor of Pediatrics—Research, was recently elected as 2019-2020 president of the MD Anderson UT Health Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) Graduate School Faculty. She will represent over 600 faculty members in the Texas Medical Center and Smithville.

This is a noteworthy and outstanding achievement for her and the division as she is the first Pediatrics faculty member to serve in this role. Based on Chandra's high level of commitment to graduate education, she was recommended for this role by Michelle Barton, Ph.D., and Michael Blackburn, Ph.D., deans of the GSBS, and elected by faculty vote.

Swim Across America Houston Makes a Big Splash and Exceeds Fundraising Goal



The rainstorm that occurred early Saturday, May 4th, eventually cleared and left a beautiful day for a successful Swim Across America Houston event. Held at Lake Houston's Alexander Deussen Park, the swim exceeded its \$100,000 goal by raising approximately \$175,000 as of Aug. 20. The funds will be used to support pediatric and adult brain cancer research. **Richard Gorlick, M.D.**, head of Pediatrics and the Children's Cancer Hospital, and John de Groot, M.D., interim chair of Neuro-Oncology, worked together to inspire many teams. Local supporters identified by Swim Across America, Incorporated were incredibly supportive. **Rodrigo Mejia, M.D.**, pediatric intensive care specialist, was Pediatrics team captain.



Several Olympic and Paralympic swimmers participated. The event featured a 5K, a one-mile course, and a half-mile swim. Participants had the option of timing their race. Follow this link to take a look at swim times: <https://bit.ly/2NrauJ5>. Thanks to all who donated, volunteered, and jumped in the water for a fun event with a great purpose.

Sutow Lecturer: Two Common Pediatric Brain Cancers Start in Early Pregnancy

Michael D. Taylor, M.D., Ph.D., F.R.C.S. (C), was the W.W. Sutow Visiting Lecturer in Pediatric Oncology on Aug. 19, 2019. The neurosurgeon and brain cancer researcher at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada, focuses his scientific investigations largely on the genetics of pediatric medulloblastoma and ependymoma, two of the most common brain cancers in children. During his presentation, Taylor shared details of his research indicating the two malignancies start as early as the first trimester of pregnancy, and he said that his work shows how childhood brain cancers change over time as they reoccur after therapy and as they metastasize.



UT Students Use Pedal Power to Support Cancer Research



A big thanks to the Texas 4000 for Cancer's Ozarks team for visiting our campus as part of their Austin-Alaska trek to raise money and awareness of cancer. In June, The University of Texas at Austin students toured MD Anderson and made a donation of \$50,000 to **Shulin Li, Ph.D.**, professor of Pediatrics—Research (wearing dark jacket).

The funds—a continuation of the group's previous support—will help sustain Li's research of circulating tumor cell (CTC) analysis for pediatric patients. CTC analysis allows our labs to identify traces of cancer cells that have escaped treatment and make therapy less effective or cause metastases.

Tri Delta Philanthropies Supports Innovative Research in Pediatrics

We're grateful to Houston Tri Delta Philanthropies, Inc., for supporting the research we're doing in the division. Several members of the Tri Delta Houston Alumnae Chapter visited the Pedi Dome this spring to present our investigators with \$285,000—proceeds from The SALE, a two-day shopping extravaganza held this past January at the Bayou City Event Center. The funds will be used by **Branko Cuglievan, M.D.**, assistant professor of Pediatrics (in lab jacket) to support his investigation of a trackable microdevice's ability to deliver medicine to sarcoma tumors; **Kris Mahadeo, M.D., M.P.H.** (second from left) to examine effectiveness of stem cells treatment in brain tumors; and **Karen Moody, M.D., M.S.** (third from left) for energy balance studies. She is studying physical activity and dietary intake in multiple cancer populations to see how exercise and nutrition impact clinical outcomes and quality of life. Since 2015, the group has donated \$625,000 for research at our hospital.



Research Publications, Presentations, Training Accolades

Several research faculty and employees published manuscripts, received grants and accolades, or gave presentations in the past several months. Please make note of the following:

Research Publications:

- Izhar, S. Batth*, Abhisek Mitra*, Scott Kopetz, David Mentor, Shulin Li. CTC analysis: an update on technological progress. Translational Research <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trsl.2019.07.003>.
- Sebastian Wurster, Pappanaicken R. Kumaresan, Nathaniel D. Albert, Paul J. Hauser, Russell E. Lewis, Dimitrios P. Kontoyiannis. Live Monitoring and Analysis of Fungal Growth, Viability, and Mycelial Morphology Using the IncuCyte NeuroTrack Processing Module. <https://mbio.asm.org/content/10/3/e00673-19.long>
- Najat C. Daw, Yueh-Yun Chi, Yeonil Kim, Elizabeth A. Mullen, John A. Kalapurakal, Jing Tian, Geetika Khanna, James I. Geller, Elizabeth J. Perlman, Peter F. Ehrlich, Anne B. Warwick, Paul E. Grundy, Conrad V. Fernandez, Jeffrey S. Dome on behalf of the AREN0321 Study Committee.

Research Trainee Recognitions:

- The Pediatrics Research group was well-represented at the American Association of Immunology (AAI) National Meeting in San Diego in May. **Kerri Wolf** and **Anchit Bhagat**, both graduate research assistants in the

Treatment of stage I anaplastic Wilms' tumour: a report from the Children's Oncology Group AREN0321 study. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejca.2019.05.033>

- Zakkoyya H. Lewis*, Maria C. Swartz*, Eloisa Martinez; Elizabeth J. Lyons. Social Support Patterns of Middle-Aged and Older Adults Within a Physical Activity App: Secondary Method Analysis. doi: [10.2196/12496](https://doi.org/10.2196/12496).
- Sebastian Wurster*, Pappanaicken R. Kumaresan*, Nathaniel D. Albert, Paul J. Hauser, Russell E. Lewis, Dimitrios P. Kontoyiannis. Live Monitoring and Analysis of Fungal Growth, Viability, and Mycelial Morphology Using the IncuCyte NeuroTrack Processing Module. mBio 2019 May 28;10(3). pii: e00673-19. <https://mbio.asm.org/content/10/3/e00673-19.long>

*Indicates co-first authors

Kleinerman Laboratory, presented posters. To attend, Wolf received travel awards from the AAI, The UT Health [Research accolades continued on next page--](#)

Research continued--

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) and the school's Cancer Biology Program—all competitive awards.

- Bhagat received a travel award from The UT Health Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and its immunology program. The titles of both presentations are featured in the division's [SharePoint site](#), under the "Event Photos" tab at the top of the page.
- Congratulations to **Sylvester Jusu, Ph.D.**, postdoctoral fellow in Pediatrics-Research, who received a travel award from the Office of Postdoctoral Development (OPAD) to attend the 2019 Diverse Scholar Postdoctoral Conference in California in July. He was among five postdocs at MD

Anderson to receive support to attend the event which exists to support the diversification of the workforce in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) disciplines.

- Congratulations to **Mary Figueroa**, a graduate research assistant in the Chandra Laboratory, who was selected for a prestigious American Association of Cancer Researchers (AACR) Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Award. The grant was funded by the National Cancer Institute's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities. Figueroa participated in the AACR's Special conference, "Environmental Carcinogenesis: Potential Pathway to Cancer Prevention," in June.

A **Pediatric Clinical/Research Trainee Recognition Town Hall** was held in June to recognize many other accomplishments of our talented trainees. These accolades are available for viewing on the division's [SharePoint site](#), under the "Event Photos" tab at the top of the page.

President Recognizes Pediatrics Faculty for Excellence

Congratulations to four Pediatrics faculty members who were among institutional standouts recognized for Faculty Excellence by MD Anderson President Peter WT Pisters, M.D. at a special reception on Aug. 8. They were:

- **Vidya Gopalakrishnan, Ph.D.**, an associate professor and laboratory leader studying causes of pediatric brain tumors, was honored for research excellence.
- **Douglas Harrison, M.D.**, associate professor, solid tumor specialist and center medical director for the Children's Cancer Hospital, was honored for clinical quality improvement efforts.
- **Karen Moody, M.D.**, associate professor and director of our supportive and palliative care program, was recognized for prevention and outreach efforts.
- **Priti Tewari, M.D.**, associate professor, stem cell transplantation specialist and director of our Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program, was recognized for education and mentorship.

Have You Met Our Newest Faculty Members?

Pediatrics recently welcomed three new faculty members to help meet the needs of our patients. They are:



Ali Ahmad,
D. O.,
assistant
professor,
critical care
intensivist.



Linette
Ewing,
D.O.,
assistant
professor,
critical care
intensivist



Pooja Hingorani,
M.B.B.S., associate
professor, non-
neural solid tumors

Children's Cancer Hospital APPs and Clinical Leaders Share Knowledge at Annual Meeting

Several of our advanced practice providers were front and center at the recent Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses to share knowledge about clinical and support programs at the Children's Cancer Hospital. Podium and poster presentations were as follows:

- **Lisa Triche, DNP, RN**, advanced practice registered nurse. "The Forgotten Organ: Nephrotoxicity and Other Kidney Disorders in Childhood Cancer."
- **Joan O'Hanlon Curry, MS, RN**, administrative director, Pediatric Clinical Services. "It's Time to Expect More: Developing Leadership Skills at all Levels."
- **Anne Ferguson, MSN, RN**, assistant manager, nurse; **Tina Folloder, RN**, clinical nurse; and **Janet Smith, RN, BSN**, assoc dir, ambulatory nursing. "Not All Inhaling is Bad: Fostering a Care Environment for the Administration of Aerosolized Gemcitabine Through Innovation, Teamwork and Safety."
- **Angela Yarbrough, DNP, RN**, advanced prac register nurse and **Donna Bell, MS, RN**, advanced prac registered nurse. "Bridging the Gap to Survivorship for Solid Tumor Patients: A Single Institution Experience."

Pediatrics Division Paused to Say “Thank You” to Nurses



National Nurses Week was cause for celebration on our inpatient and ambulatory units. Teams got together for breakfasts and mid-day snacks. Managers shared words of thanks for the hard work and dedication that our nurses provide each day for our patients.

In photo (l-r) are: (l-r) **Claudia Ramirez**, medical assistant; **Patricia Serna**, medical assistant; **Kelli Hamburg**, outpatient clinical nurse; **Brandie Sampson**, outpatient clinical nurse; **Jacqui Rocha**, outpatient clinical nurse; **Ty Collins**, outpatient clinical nurse; **Robin Cannon**, outpatient clinical nurse.

The Division of Pediatrics Recognized its Stars with an Outstanding Employee Awards Program



Jose Olguin, A.S., patient access representative, “is calm and reassuring as he works with worried parents to complete their children’s registration and he demonstrates persistence in resolving insurance difficulties. He does everything he can for his ‘babies,’ as he calls them,” according to a nomination submitted for the division’s Second Annual Outstanding Employee Awards Program, held May 17, at the Onstead Auditorium.

Olguin, seen left in photo with **Luis “Tony” Choy-Morga, M.B.A.**, associate department administrator, was presented the award for Administration and Patient Care. More photos are available on the division’s SharePoint under the Event Photos tab.

Other awardees were:

- Administration and Patient Care—**Janie Suthoff, B.S.**, former education program coordinator
- Administration and Patient Care—**Grace Yang, M.Ed.**, senior counselor
- Hospital and Clinic—**Jeffrey Miller, R.N., M.S.N., F.N.P.**, advanced nurse practitioner
- Hospital and Clinic—**Jaclyne Rocha, R.N., B.S.**, outpatient clinical nurse
- Pediatrics Research—**Thai Nguyen, A.A.S.**, senior IT support technician
- Support Programs—**Bonnie Butler, M.Ed.**, senior coordinator
- Support Programs—**Daniel Smith, M.Ed.**, education and creative arts manager

From the Pedi Suggestion/Question Box: You Asked—Our Administrators Answered

Questions and suggestions about division operations are welcomed, as stated by Division Head **Richard Gorlick, M.D.** and Executive Director and Division Administrator **Lisa Hafemeister, M.H.A., F.A.C.H.E.**

Q: How will staffing for programs and services be prioritized for the division?

A: In June 2019, an algorithm was designed to process requests for classified staff positions. The first step is to notify the department administrator or director of the request. Various factors are reviewed including, but not limited, to justification for the position, staffing models, financial impact, and relevant space constraints. Requests are then reviewed by the division and additional considerations are applied to ensure the growth is in alignment with the vision and strategic direction for programs and services. New positions are also subject to review at the institutional Position Review Committee level. Please contact your administrator or director who can provide details for your department. They are:

- Patient Care- **Luis “Tony” Choy-Morga, M.B.A.**
- Child and Adolescent Center/PATC/APP Program- **Joan Curry, R.N., M.S., A.P.R.N., P.N.P.**
- Support Programs- **Kevin Long, M.B.A.**
- Research- **Tajuanna Thibodeaux, M.B.A.**

Q: Would each administrator and finance director identify two to three primary concerns from faculty and provide a timeline to address these concerns?

A: Administrators, directors, and the associate finance director continuously seek to better understand the needs of faculty and staff. We encourage the submission of questions and sharing concerns as they arise, so that administration team leaders can look for new ways of supporting the departments and division.

Camp Season was a Great Season



Our patients and their siblings of all ages had many camps to choose from this year, among them, Camp H-Town. Unlike our in-hospital Camp for All experiences and the more ‘rustic’ away-camps that took place in the Magnolia area or near Burton, Camp H-Town was luxe from start to finish. The Four Seasons Hotel hosted 33 kids, ages eight to 13, during the week of July 22-26.

Each day the campers went downstairs for breakfast and then they were off to have fun in Greater Houston. This included time at the Houston Zoo, the Houston Yacht Club, Space Center Houston, and downtown area restaurants. The kids had fun at the hotel pool every day, participated in music classes, enjoyed street performances created just for them, and got to dress up and dance all night (not really) at the House of Blues. The kids also enjoyed a Houston Astros baseball game and got to meet several of the Houston Dynamo players and mascot Dynamo Diesel.



Policy Reminders: The DOs and DON'Ts of MD Anderson's Media and Tours Policies

As employees of the world's leading cancer care centers, it's not surprising that members of media contact us for helpful information and interviews. Faculty and staff may also want to share news about events, clinical updates, and various research accomplishments. But before you agree to provide any information to media, make the Public Relations Office your first stop. That group evaluates opportunities for media coverage based on institutional priorities, news value, issues affecting news cycle, availability to support an event and other ongoing media opportunities that may conflict or overlap.

Katrina Burton, B.S., program manager in the Public Relations Office, is assigned to the Children's Cancer Hospital, the Division of Pediatrics, and the Children's Art Project. Reach out to her at KBurton@mdanderson.org should you receive any direct inquiries from media. You can contact **Maxsane Mitchell, B.S.**, program manager in Pediatrics, for questions or requests for social media coverage. Her email address is maxmitchel@mdanderson.org. Remember, MD Anderson has multiple policies/guidelines detailing how to work cooperatively with the appropriate institutional employees in relation to news media. Consequences, including termination, are also described.

Additionally, the institution has updated its policy on tours throughout our patient, research, administrative, and common areas. Most notably, requests must be filed at least two weeks prior to the requested tour date and, if approved, guests must check in at the Pickens Building. Information about both policies are posted on our SharePoint Drive at the top of the homepage.



Event Reminder: Mueller's Monster Mash

It's that time of year again. Mueller's Monster Mash is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 28, at 11 a.m. It's a parade of our patients and their siblings dressed in donated costumes marching from G9 and the Child and Adolescent Center down to The Park near the Donor Wall.

They'll collect candy donated by lots of generous employees, volunteers, as part of our efforts to bring this fall event to their lives. Each year, many employees and some faculty dress up for the occasion. Check with your supervisor to find out if you can take part in this fun event!





SATURDAY, NOV. 9
TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER

Walk it Out: Your Boots Were Made for Fundraising

Time to dust off your favorite boots to help raise money for a great cause—ending cancer. The Children’s Cancer Hospital is participating in MD Anderson’s Annual Boot Walk to End Cancer fundraiser by reactivating our Golden Boots Team.

The 1.2 mile event will take place—rain or shine—on **Saturday, Nov. 9**, in the heart of the Texas Medical Center. All ages are welcome to participate. The funds will be used to advance research discoveries to slow, stop, or prevent cancer. The CCH goal this year is to raise \$5,000. If you’d like to join in on the fun, please use our special link to register for the Golden Boots Team. Theda Williams,

program manager, is our Team Captain. <http://mdacc.convio.net/goto/CCHGoldenBoots>

Pssst: Don’t Forget to Encourage Patients to Make an IMPACT

By Special Contributor: Danielle Buzanga, L.M.S.W., C.C.L.S., child life specialist---imPACT (Patient Advisory Council for Teens) is here to help you! Please join us for a meeting if you would like to hear directly from some of our teen patients about any programs, services, and projects you may be working on. This is a great opportunity to get some feedback and ideas on how we can best support our patients.

Our meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of the month from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Kim’s Place.

E-mail impact@mdanderson.org for more information or if you’d like to come present at an upcoming meeting. We hope to see you there!

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